

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 74661 TN/kp	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)
International application No. PCT/DK 02/00633	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25.09.2002	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25.09.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A01C1/04			
Applicant BENTLE PRODUCTS AG			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I ☒ Basis of the opinion

II ☐ Priority

III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability


IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention

V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

VI ☐ Certain documents cited

VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application

VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 21.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 17.09.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Simson, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2078



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/DK 02/00633**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-14 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-12 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/5-5/5 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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International application No. **PCT/DK 02/00633**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-2
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Closest prior art document is WO-A-0156361 (D1) which discloses the preamble of claim 1.

The features of the characterizing portion solve the problem to avoid evaporation of the upper end of the tape projecting from the soil surface.

Document US-A-4453369 (D2) discloses seed marker tabs which are at least initially edgewise joined to a card which tabs are provided with a non-absorbent coating extending to the soil line and acting as a moisture barrier, see col. 4, lines 60-68; figures 4a, 8. Although the position of the water-repellent material is the same, the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in the feature that the plane material is penetrated throughout the entire thickness thereof. In D2 the non-absorbent barrier is a coating.

A combination of D1 and D2 would neither be envisaged by the skilled person nor lead to the subject-matter of claim 1:

D1 discloses the use of a hydrophobic powder (page 6, lines 19-25), but preferably on the lower part of the stripe (10) for the purpose of enhancing the water filling of the SAP-material stripe. The portion of the SAP-material above the seed is preferably admixed with hydrophilic material, see claim 2 and page 10, lines 15-18. There is no hint in D1 that the equivalent to the upper section (92) disclosed in D2 could be provided with hydrophobic material. Therefore the skilled person would not be prompted to transfer the teaching of D2 to a seed tape according to D1.

However, if he did, there would be no indication yet to replace the coating of D2 by a entire penetration of the water-repellent material.

It follows that claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-12 therefore satisfy the requirements of Article 33(2) and (3)PCT. The industrial applicability (Article 33(4) PCT) is obvious.